

NEW MEXICO CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE
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 Cooperating with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING AUGUST 9, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Widespread monsoonal moisture was recorded during the week, with heavier rainfall totals isolated to centrally located areas, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reports from counties in the northwest indicated that recent rainfall resulted in slight improvements in pasture grasses. However, soil moisture levels remained low, with comments from ranchers who were digging postholes noting powdery dirt down to 36 inches. The persistent hot, dry weather combined with pressure from elk grazing alfalfa fields caused a noticeable reduction in hay yields in Rio Arriba and Taos Counties. In Union County, coloring was evident in the sorghum crop, while some corn fields were showing signs of drought stress. Producers were busy preparing fields to begin seeding the 2021 winter wheat crop. Statewide, chile producers were busy harvesting green peppers, with progress just slightly behind normal. The United States Drought Monitor released on August 6 indicated that extreme drought (D3) expanded to cover 15.2 percent of the State, while severe drought (D2) was categorized across 36.6 percent of the State, an increase of 4.8 percentage points from last week. The area classified in moderate drought (D1) dropped to 42.8 percent. Abnormal dryness plagued 5.4 percent of the State. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 81 percent short to very short, compared with 82 percent last week, 64 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 56 percent. Pasture and range condition was reported as 38 percent poor to very poor, compared with 47 percent last week, 45 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 34 percent. Pecan nut set was reported as 5 percent light and 95 percent moderate, compared with 8 percent light, 83 percent moderate, and 9 percent heavy last year. Hail damage across all crops was reported as 2 percent light and 1 percent moderate. Wind damage across all crops was reported as 7 percent light and 1 percent moderate. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 11 percent very short, 36 percent short, 51 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus, compared with 8 percent very short, 33 percent short, 53 percent adequate, and 6 percent surplus last week. Stock water supplies were reported as 21 percent very short, 38 percent short, and 41 percent adequate, compared with 23 percent very short, 41 percent short, and 36 percent adequate last week.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
2 nd cutting harvested.....	95	90	94	NA
3 rd cutting harvested.....	60	58	62	80
4 th cutting harvested.....	32	27	32	44
Chile				
Green harvested.....	18	9	11	20
Corn				
Silked.....	56	50	46	71
Doughed.....	7	1	1	15
Cotton				
Squaring.....	91	87	80	87
Setting bolls.....	56	48	29	52
Peanuts				
Pegging.....	93	87	43	57
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	74	79	NA	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	68	63	NA	NA

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork.....	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	32	33	20	18
Short.....	49	49	44	38
Adequate.....	19	18	33	39
Surplus.....	--	--	3	5
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	42	40	21	17
Short.....	48	48	50	37
Adequate.....	10	12	28	45
Surplus.....	--	--	1	1

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	2	2	--	3
Poor.....	5	4	3	5
Fair.....	35	30	17	23
Good.....	45	48	66	57
Excellent.....	13	16	14	12
Chile				
Very poor.....	6	6	1	1
Poor.....	8	7	1	4
Fair.....	34	36	31	30
Good.....	52	51	61	47
Excellent.....	--	--	6	18
Corn				
Very poor.....	1	1	--	1
Poor.....	1	1	6	4
Fair.....	41	46	48	27
Good.....	30	26	31	46
Excellent.....	27	26	15	22
Cotton				
Very poor.....	5	5	--	2
Poor.....	21	20	17	12
Fair.....	57	52	45	36
Good.....	13	15	27	41
Excellent.....	4	8	11	9
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	15	18	10	9
Poor.....	23	29	35	25
Fair.....	40	37	37	37
Good.....	16	12	16	24
Excellent.....	6	4	2	5
Peanuts				
Very poor.....	5	5	--	--
Poor.....	20	17	7	8
Fair.....	33	43	62	64
Good.....	42	35	31	27
Excellent.....	--	--	--	1
Pecans				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor.....	1	1	1	1
Fair.....	27	22	8	7
Good.....	72	69	45	61
Excellent.....	--	8	46	31
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	8	2	3	2
Poor.....	8	7	10	6
Fair.....	44	46	44	37
Good.....	35	40	35	48
Excellent.....	5	5	8	7
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	9	14	6	12
Poor.....	10	12	10	10
Fair.....	40	37	37	26
Good.....	40	37	43	48
Excellent.....	1	--	4	4

NA – not available

(--) – zero